4: Richter M, G-5 (ca. 1856-1870) 1870 AW5 Coorg AW5

243 461 526 legs well qualify them. The sign is given and away they scramble and plunge and stagger in the deep mud and roars of laughter greet the unfortunate wight who tumbles into the mud. Having reached the opposite bank, they return the same way, and hard is their struggle close to the winning post. The first comer is rewarded with a piece of cloth, the second with a bunch of plantains, the third with a jack-fruit, the fourth with a basket of oranges and the fifth with parched rice. [594] When all the fields are planted, a feast for the people is given by the landlord.

243 [989] As a protection against the evil eye, some half burnt bamboos about 6 feet high are erected in a line throughout the middle of the fields. It is now the farmer's business, to regulate the water supply of each field and to fill up holes made by crabs in the embankments. Also the weeding is attended to and any failures are replanted. At the end of [343] October, when the ears of the grain are fully out, huts on high posts are erected, one for every 100 butties, for the watchman who guards the crop against wild beasts and occasionally fires off a gun. In November or December the paddy gets ripe and the feast of first fruits or "Huttari" is celebrated, after which the paddy may be reaped. The water is drained off the fields, the paddy cut down with sickles close to the ground and spread out to dry; after 5 or 6 days it is bound up into sheaves and carried home and stacked in a heap, the ears turned inside. In January or February, chiefly in moon- [435] light nights, the sheaves are taken down to the threshing floor, spread round a stone pillar, fixed in the middle, and trodden out by bullocks and buffaloes, when the paddy is winnowed, the best quality reserved for seed and the rest stored up in the granary, already described, for home consumption and for sale, the price varying from 2 to 4 Rs. a [177] butty. A threshing machine, lately introduced by Lieut. Mackenzie, excited the astonishment and admiration of the

4: Richter M, G-5 (ca. 1856-1870) 1870 AWS Coorg AWS

245 Of almost equal importance with manuring is the pruning of the trees, whereby the extravagant elaboration of the sap is checked and the fertility of the soil economised. It is this operation which makes the planter most familiar with his trees and which impresses upon the appearance of an estate as decided a stamp, as the system of training characterizes a school. It is amusing to hear a planter call one's attention to this and that "dear little tree", which he has "brought round by pruning"; but these are often the men who do justice to a plantation and who eventually succeed!

245 439 435 The export of coffee for the last 12 years, as will be seen from the subjoined table, has with the exception of the last two years been steadily increasing.

Statement of exports of Coffee from Coorg

from 1857—1869 in maunds of which 4 are equal to 1 Cwt.

Year	Coffee in maunds	Avoirdupois weight			Value at Rs. 500 per ton
		Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	
1857—58	46,336	579	4	0	289,600
1858—59	66,862	835	15	2	417,850
1859—60	1,11,768	1,379	2	0	689,550
1860—61	1,28,412	1,605	3	0	802,550
1861—62	1,53,781	1,922	5	1	961,125
1862—63	1,40,113	1,751	8	1	875,700
1863—64	2,34,182	2,927	5	2	1,463,625
1864—65	2,40,000	3,000	0	0	1,500,000
1865—66	2,50,000	3,125	0	0	1,562,500
1866—67	2,60,000	3,250	0	0	1,625,000
1867—68	2,40,000	3,000	0	0	1,500,000
1868—69	2,20,700	2,758	15	0	1,379,375
	20,92,154	26,133	17	2	13,066,875

4: Richter M, G-5 (ca. 1856-1870) 1870 AW5 Coorg AW5

248 the stem of the fibre. When all is ready for removing the stalks, cutting more than can be immediately attended to, should be avoided. When the sticks are cut, they should be stripped of the leaves on the ground, which is done by passing the hand down them from top to bottom, after which they are handed over to women or boys to be treated as follows:

The workers should be in couples, one to take off the bark or thin outer coat, the other to strip off the fibre. The [412] barker being provided with some coir fibre and a wooden knife, proceeds with the former to rub the stick in one direction, from top to bottom, or vice versa, which, if the plant be fresh, is easily accomplished; if the bark be obstinate, she uses the wooden knife, scraping in one direction, when the fibre is thoroughly exposed. After removing the bark, she hands the stick to another cooly, who breaks it an inch or two at either end or in the middle by which a portion of fibre is separated and which enables him to lay hold of it and to strip off very carefully the entire fibre. Should any mucilaginous matter still adhere, it is scraped off with a blunt wooden knife and the clean fibre hung up in the sun for a day to dry, when it is ready for the market. Perhaps drying the cut sticks in the sun and exposing them to the dews for several days and then beating out the brittle herbaceous part with a wooden apparatus as they treat hemp in Germany, may be a cheaper and more expeditious mode of separating the fibre.

248 As to the return, 88 lbs. are calculated upon one acre for
245 one crop, and if the field allows three annual cuttings, the
433 yield is 264 lbs. or a little more than one-tenth of a ton,
435 valued 80 rupees at £ 80 a ton, whilst an acre of coffee producing 5 cwt. would yield at 70 shillings per cwt. Rupees 175, all expenditure excluded in both cases.

245 The *Chocolate tree* or Theobroma Cacao has been successfully reared by me from seeds received from Sir Madava Row, the Devân of Travancore. The cultivation of this most use-

4: Richter M, G-5 (ca. 1856-1870) 1870 AWS Coorg AWS

8. Forest Conservancy.

A glance at the Coorg Forests and their general Flora, as stated in page 16 ff., will show, that the formation of a Forest Conservancy Department in 1864 was an absolute necessity, and it is only to be regretted, that it was not five years earlier in operation, before some of the finest forests fell under the Planters' axe. There is, however, still scope enough for the energy and talents of a well trained Forest Officer in Coorg, and the more a scientific system of working the reserved forests is introduced such as was originated by Dr. Brandis and carried out in Burmah and other parts of India, especially in the Madras Presidency under the able direction of Dr. Cleghorn and Major Beddome, the better will be the prospects of an ever increasing revenue from this department, which seems not yet to be in a very flourishing condition. Being left without rules fixed by law, the Forest Officer cannot act with that authority which is due to his position and necessary to the interests of Government.

Of the trees reserved by Government, Sandal and Teak are its monopoly, the Kuve or Poonspar is sold at the rate of Rs. 20 per tree, Blackwood and Anjili are sold at Rs. 10 and Ebony, Hone and Irupu at Rs. 6 per tree. All other timbers, bamboos and firewood are allowed free to the ryot paying land revenue to Government and also to all Government servants in Coorg whose pay does not exceed 10 Rs. per mensem, without written permission or any prohibition whatever, except that only mature trees must be cut and that the timber must be used solely for bona fide agricultural and building purposes and not for sale. For the same kind of trees which are free of charge to the ryots, traders have to pay from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4—8 per tree and Rs. 6 per 1000 bamboos, whilst non-ryot residents, if for their own use, pay only half price.

[1] [Errata: This should read "of India": see Corrigenda, Cat. 116, P. 479 — Analyst]